

APPENDIX B:

NATIONAL REGISTER DOCUMENTATION

THE ANDREW JACKSON WILLIAMS HOUSE

No information provided for this page.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Williams, Andrew Jackson, House

other names/site number Bower, Paul E., Jr., House/ Delaware Cultural Resource Survey N-7698

2. Location

street & number 2200 Newport Gap Pike

N/A not for publication

city, town Wilmington

N/A vicinity

state Delaware

code 10

county New Castle

code 003

zip code 19808

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- ☐ private
☐ public-local
☒ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>3</u> buildings
	_____ sites
	_____ structures
	_____ objects
	_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this
☐ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National
Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.
☐ removed from the National Register.
☐ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/dwelling

Garage: DOMESTIC/secondary structure

Sheds (2): DOMESTIC/secondary structures

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

DOMESTIC/secondary structures

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Greek Revival

Garage: NO STYLE

Sheds: NO STYLE

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other Terra Cotta Chimney Pot

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Andrew Jackson Williams House (see Plate 3, p. 17) is located at 2200 Newport Gap Pike (State Route 41), Wilmington, Delaware, on the southern side of the road 0.25 miles west of its intersection with the Kirkwood Highway (State Route 2), adjacent to the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad tracks. The dwelling, dating to the last quarter of the nineteenth century, is sited on approximately 3.3 acres on the Red Clay Creek floodplain composed of lawn, gardens, orchards and woodland with a 170-foot frontage along the Newport Gap Pike shielded by hedges. When it was first examined, the architectural character of the building was excellent and much of its original fabric remained intact. Recent vandalism has removed much of its architectural features.

The house is a three-bay, two-story, gable-roofed frame structure with a two-bay, two-story, gable-roofed ell on the rear of the northwest gable end. A one-story frame shed-roofed addition is attached to the southwest end of the ell (see Plate 4, p. 18). The approximate overall dimensions of the northeast and northwest facades are 28½ feet by 42½ feet. The foundation of the dwelling consists of fieldstone that has been stuccoed on the exterior. The structure is completely sheathed with German siding except for the eastern facade of the additions, which are sheathed with asphalt shingle. The siding measures 5½ inches wide and 1 inch thick and leaves 5 inches revealed when the boards are overlapped. A small one-story shed-roofed porch, supported by square posts on an 11-foot by 7-foot poured concrete pad, is centered on the northeast facade. Mr. Paul E. Bower, a previous owner of the house, reports that a former porch along this facade extended the full length of the wall. The present porch was erected approximately twenty years ago after an automobile accident destroyed the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

earlier porch. The ceiling of the porch is finished with beaded tongue-and-groove boards. A single interior end chimney pile topped with a terra cotta/ceramic stack extends above the gable ridge of the ell. A similar chimney pot sits as a lawn ornament in the rear yard. A concrete block chimney pile on the exterior of the southeast facade of the addition is supported and braced by welded angle iron.

The door in the northeast facade has unadorned wooden surrounds topped by a three-light rectangular transom. The door, composed of four rectangular lights above two wooden panels, is of modern construction. There are two other entrances into the dwelling, both on the southeast facade of the addition. Ornamentation of these entries is similar to the formal entrance in the northeast facade, but both lack transoms. The door that leads into the kitchen from the patio has four lights over two panels, similar to the main entrance. The door into the shed from the patio area contains a large rectangular screen above a recessed panel.

Two pairs of two-over-two light sash are situated in the peaks of the main gable ends, while the gable end of the addition contains a single two-over-two light sash. Other windows consist of six-over-six light sash. The single exception is a nine-over-nine light sash that has been installed in place of an original door in the southeast gable end. Window treatment consists of plain wooden surrounds and sills, topped by a thin projecting shelf above unadorned lintels. Butt hinge style pintels are evident on all the window surrounds, but all shutters have been removed. Recessed panel shutters for the ground level and louvered ones for the upper story were later found in the attic of the dwelling.

The roof is currently covered by asphalt shingles and is ornamented with a shallow box cornice and unadorned frieze on the north facade. The gable ends exhibit partial returns with fascia and cyma recta molding and scroll brackets except for the gable end of the ell which lacks the brackets. A 12-foot by 14-foot poured concrete patio sits outside of the southeast

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number _____ Page _____

facade.

The main block possesses a full basement with a poured concrete floor, which may be entered from the first floor via a stairway or through bulkhead exterior doors and six concrete steps through the eastern foundation. This exterior basement entrance was installed in rather recent times. The interior stairway contains 10 treads, each 2 foot 11 inches wide and 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches deep with a 7 inch rise. Among the visible structural elements in the basement are sills composed of 9-inch by 4-inch circular-sawn beams. Floor joists measured 8-3/4 inches by 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches and were also circular sawn. The flooring uses tongue-and-groove boards 4 inches wide. A hewn summer beam measured 9 inches by 8 inches and supported the main structure along its northeast/southwest axis. Two one-light windows are situated in the northwest foundation wall. One window penetrated the northeast foundation wall. The walls of the basement consisted of stuccoed fieldstone.

Interior space on the ground level of the main section is divided unequally into a two room or hall-parlor plan with a kitchen in the ell (see Figure 5, p. 21). Entry through the northeast facade leads into the smaller north room. This room contains the staircase to the second floor. There are thirteen treads, each 2 feet 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide and 9 inches deep with an 8 inch rise. The closed string balustrade consists of twenty 1-1/8 inch square posts topped by a slender turned wooden handrail. The newel post is a 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch square wooden column crowned by beaded cyma molding and a square capital. Baseboards are 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches high, capped with 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch high cyma molding. A plastered brick chimney flue, probably for use with a coal burning stove, projects from the northwest wall. The plaster walling of the flue stack has been extended to form a small cupboard. A panelled door encloses the cupboard space. The plaster covering the stack and cupboard is also ornamented with beaded corners. A door in the western corner of the room leads into the kitchen, while a large entry in the southeast wall

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

opens into the larger room of the two-room plan. Both the door and the entryway are ornamented with cyma surrounds. A window pierces the northeast wall. Another window breaks the massing of the northwest wall south of the chimney flue. Window ornament consists of cyma surrounds similar to the door surrounds.

The larger front room or parlor lies to the east of the first. There are two doors in the western corner of the second room. One leads into the kitchen; the second door provides access to the basement stairway. The room is lit by four windows. One in the northeast wall looks onto Route 41, while another in the southwest wall overlooks the concrete patio. Two other windows penetrate the southeast wall on either side of a small projecting chimney flue placed similarly to the stack in the first room. Door, window and baseboard surround treatment is similar to the first room.

According to Mr. Bower the parlor was once a general store: the walls were lined with shelves and the room could be entered from the outside through a door that has been replaced by a window in the southeast wall. Although no evidence remains of shelving, seams in the German siding below the window indicate that the space could formerly have contained an entry door. Since the Bower family has lived in the dwelling since the early 1920s, this store possibly survived into the early 1930s.

The kitchen can be entered from either of the front rooms, the patio, or the shed addition. One window in the southeast wall overlooks the patio area, while another window pierces the northwest wall. Door and window surround treatment is similar to the other rooms. The most interesting feature is two sets of built-in cupboards and shelves that may date from the original construction. Evidence indicates that they have been altered, but the original panelled doors are still in use. A small chimney pile projects from the southwest wall with one side flush to one of the cupboards.

A single step leads from the kitchen down into the shed addition. Mr.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Bower states that this addition replaced an earlier shed addition that was destroyed by fire during the 1920s. A door on the southeast wall faces onto the patio; windows are located on the southwest and northwest walls. According to Mr. Bower, this shed was formerly used as a coal bin, although no evidence supporting this usage pattern remains. A small closet space has been built in the south corner of the addition but is of recent vintage.

Immediately to the right at the top of the staircase is a large bedroom above the kitchen. Directly in front of the stairs is a full bathroom. To the left, a hallway leads to the northeast wall. Along this hall are three doors. Proceeding toward the northeast wall, the first two doors enclose closet space, while the third contains the stairwell to the attic. At the end of the hall is a window that overlooks Newport Gap Pike. To either side of this window are smaller bedrooms. The northwest bedroom also contains a small closet that shares its rear wall with the closet in the large bedroom in the ell portion. A door from the small bedroom in the northeast corner leads into the bathroom. Window placement, surround treatment, and baseboard ornament are similar to those on the first floor. One additional feature is a door in the southeast wall of the large bedroom that still functions but that exits into the air space above the patio. Mr. Bower related that at one time the patio area contained a two-story enclosed porch into which this door entered.

The attic has been divided into three rooms, two of which are finished with lath and plaster. The attic over the main section contains the two finished rooms. These rooms are of approximately equal size. The attic stairs lead into the northern of these finished rooms. A door leads into the other finished room in the southern half of the main section. A second door leads from the northern attic room into the unfinished, unfloored attic of the addition. Common rafters, 4 inches by 2½ inches, are butt-jointed at the peak. Mill-sawn ceiling joists, 6 inches by 3 inches, rest

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

on 7½-inch by 1-inch plates. The finished rooms are ornamented with 5-inch high molded baseboards. Vertical board-and-batten doors with beaded edges are used in the attic, while recessed panel doors are used throughout the rest of the house.

Recent vandalism has removed many of the original architectural features of the Williams House. All wall massing has been removed from the shed addition leaving only the stud and post framing. The studs that were revealed were composed of a single piece that ran from sill to plate. All three chimney piles have been dismantled. Most of the window sash and doors have been taken as well as the built-in cupboards that had been installed in the kitchen. On the first floor, much of the ceiling and wall plaster and lath has been taken down. All balusters are missing from the staircase. On the second story the partition wall between the two rooms in the eastern half of the main portion of the dwelling has been totally removed along with the partition wall shared with the hallway. Electrical wiring and plumbing fixtures have been removed. The bulkhead doors into the basement are missing. Some exterior siding has been stripped off the second story of the kitchen wing. Hedges that once shielded the property from traffic along Newport Gap Pike have been removed by construction crews preparing the property for the proposed highway improvements.

The property contains three frame utility buildings, all built since 1940 (see Figure 6, p. 25). A one-story three-sided leanto garage lies to the southwest of the dwelling. Two sheds, one gable-roofed, the other of leanto construction, sit a short distance south of the garage. These three buildings do not contribute to the Williams House's period of significance.

The eastern boundary of the parcel occupied by Williams House begins at the intersection of the B & O Railroad right-of-way and the Newport Gap Pike (Route 41) and extends south along the railroad right-of-way approximately 350 feet. The south boundary then extends 280 feet in a northwesterly direction to the line dividing Williams's land from William

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

Elliot's property. This line then ran in a northeasterly direction 310 feet to the Newport Gap Pike and formed the western boundary of the parcel. The northern border of the tract reached approximately 170 feet southeast along the Newport Gap Pike to the B & O Railroad right-of-way. These boundaries describe the area of historic occupation and are encompassed by the 3.3 acre parcel formerly owned by Paul E. Bower. This land also includes a one acre tract purchased by Andrew Jackson Williams from James Cranston in 1873.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Transportation

Industry

Period of Significance

1873-1900

1873-1900

Significant Dates

N/A

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Andrew Jackson Williams House, built during the 1870s, is significant as an example of the transformation of late nineteenth century rural communities into centers of industrial activity and improved transportation networks. Although the Williams House functioned primarily as a dwelling during the period of its significance, it relates most strongly to the growth of manufacturing and the introduction of the railroad into the Red Clay Creek valley during the 1870s. Efficient transportation networks allowed manufacturing concerns to increase production and expand their workforce. Larger labor pools required more housing. The Williams House reflects this need for increased housing in the growing industrial communities of northern New Castle County. As such the Williams House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places on the basis of Criterion A (reflection of broad patterns of history).

The Williams House is situated in the Piedmont Zone as outlined in the *Delaware Statewide Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan* (see Figure 2, p. 3). The Piedmont is an area north of the fall line in New Castle County characterized by nearly level to steep hills and clay soils mixed with loose rock. Another feature is major and minor streams that flow primarily north to south into the Christina River and then east into the Delaware River.¹⁰⁷

¹⁰⁷ David L. Ames, Bernard L. Herman, and Rebecca J. Siders, *The Delaware Statewide Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan* (Newark, Delaware: Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering, 1987), p. 86.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

As a functional type, the Williams House relates to property type 6D of the *Delaware Statewide Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan*, reflecting wide patterns of Industrialization and Capitalization associated with Manufacturing in the Piedmont Zone during the period 1830-1880 +/- . This property type is characterized by establishments involved in the transformation of materials into new products, including factories, mills and plants.¹⁰⁸ The Williams House also relates to property type 12D, Transportation & Communication associated with the same era and geographical area. Transportation & Communication is defined as enterprises engaged in passenger and freight transportation by railway, highway, water, or air, or furnishing services related to transportation.¹⁰⁹ The property type 13D (Architecture, Engineering & Decorative Arts; 1830-1880 +/-) also relates to the Williams House. This property type encompasses all objects, structures and sites which historically trace the development of material culture defined as any significant reflection of individual and social tastes and trends.¹¹⁰

The Piedmont Zone in the period 1830-1880 +/- was distinguished by an expansion of industrial manufacturing concerns and the establishment of transportation networks that facilitated the movement of goods and people between rural areas and urban markets. Although industry and manufacturing did increase dramatically during this period, the landscape of the Piedmont Zone remained predominately rural and agricultural. Water-powered mills appeared in the many river and stream valleys of the zone and spurred new communities in rural New Castle County. Turnpikes and railroads were built, linking these communities and manufacturing establishments with urban markets and shipping centers, such as Wilmington and Philadelphia,

¹⁰⁸ Ames et al., p. 95.

¹⁰⁹ Ames et al., p. 97.

¹¹⁰ Ames et al., p. 98.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

that distributed the manufactured goods and produce throughout the United States.¹¹¹

Throughout the period of its significance, 1830-1880 +/-, the Williams House functioned as a dwelling. The historic theme Architecture, Engineering & Decorative Arts would usually be most descriptive of the historic patterns associated with the Williams House. Ornamental motifs from two architectural styles popular in the mid-nineteenth century -- Greek Revival and Italianate -- are exhibited in the Williams House. Borrowing classical Greek motifs, Greek Revival buildings were often ornamented with frieze boards and box cornices.¹¹² Italianate structures exhibited large eave brackets and partial returns on their gable ends.¹¹³ Other styles exerting strong influences during the nineteenth century included Gothic Revival and Queen Anne. These styles were formalized expressions of aesthetic taste and social status.

Although vernacular building traditions were influenced by these formal architectural styles, to a great degree utilitarian requirements remained the dominant characteristic of American housing in the mid-nineteenth century. The houses of the rural middle-class, which the Williams House documents, exhibited architectural ornament by combining motifs from different styles. The Williams House juxtaposes frieze boards and box cornices (see Plate 3, p. 17) normally found on Greek Revival structures with eave brackets and partial return gable ends (see Plate 5, p. 26) reminiscent of Italianate buildings. The subdued ornamental eclecticism of the Williams House reflects a concern for home and shelter, rather than a

¹¹¹ Bernard L. Herman and Rebecca J. Siders, *Delaware Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan: Historic Contexts* (Newark, Delaware: Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering, 1986), pp. 33-37.

¹¹² Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1986), pp. 179-184.

¹¹³ McAlester, pp. 210-214.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

desire to make a public statement through architecture. The lack of a dominant style helps reveal that other historic themes and patterns played a vital role in the construction of the Williams House.

It is the Williams House's association with the growth of manufacturing enterprises and communities in the Red Clay Creek valley that proves to be significant. As early as the late seventeenth century Red Clay Creek was recognized as an efficient source of power (see Figure 7, p. 28). Grist and sawmills began appearing along the creek in the 1670s. The majority of these mills were involved in an agricultural economy, grinding grains and sawing lumber for local consumption and use.¹¹⁴ Greenbank Mill, a mill complex dating to the late eighteenth century located approximately a quarter mile upstream of the Williams House, is situated on the site of a seventeenth-century mill of log construction.¹¹⁵ Another sawmill was located on Bread and Cheese Island, south of the Williams House. The Graves Mill on Burris Run, a tributary of Red Clay Creek near Ashland, also operated during the early eighteenth century.¹¹⁶ The nineteenth century witnessed a great expansion of manufacturing on the national level. Through an increased diversification of mills and manufacturing establishments in the period 1830-1880 +/-, the Red Clay Creek valley participated in this burgeoning national economy.

In 1823 the Fell family began producing spices for export throughout the

¹¹⁴ An excellent examination of early industry in the Red Clay Creek valley is C. W. Pursell, Jr., "That Never Failing Stream: A History of Milling Along Red Clay Creek During the Nineteenth Century" (M. A. thesis, University of Delaware, 1958).

¹¹⁵ Greenbank Historic District, National Register of Historic Places Nomination, N-191. On file at Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Dover, Delaware. Hereafter referred to as BAHP.

¹¹⁶ Graves Mill Historic District, National Register of Historic Places Nomination, N-5005. On file at BAHP.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

east coast in a mill on Red Clay Creek north of Greenbank.¹¹⁷ The Delaware Iron Works produced sheet metal and shovels and spades for use in the Pennsylvania coal mines. These ironworks at Wooddale started operation in 1826.¹¹⁸ Textile mills also operated along the Red Clay Creek. The Kiamensi Woolen Factory and the Stanton Woolen Company both operated in the 1870s. The Auburn Mills at Yorklyn was a paper mill, a cotton mill, and a woolen mill at different periods in the nineteenth century.¹¹⁹ The Williams House, however, most strongly relates to Greenbank Mill.

Greenbank Mill, located just north of the Williams House along Red Clay Creek, was a merchant grist mill throughout the nineteenth century. When a series of international trade embargoes and the War of 1812 cut off the supply of inexpensive British woolens to America, Greenbank Mill expanded and added the Madison Factory in order to manufacture woolen goods. Robert Phillips Son & Company advertised "Broad Cloths, Narrow Cloths, Cassimers, Satinetsts..." made at his Greenbank Mill in 1818.¹²⁰ After the war ended and British goods were again available, Greenbank Mill began producing wooden implements and carriage parts. In 1852 Phillips' two sons William and Isaac manufactured wooden hubs, spokes and felloes for use by the carriage-making factories in Wilmington. When the carriage industry in Wilmington lost sales to competition in St. Louis and Cincinnati, Greenbank turned to making wooden bentware, such as forks, peach ladders, folding chairs and croquet mallets. Carpenter and ship turnings (items produced on

¹¹⁷ Fell Historic District, National Register of Historic Places Nomination, N-6760. On file at BAHP.

¹¹⁸ Wooddale Historic District, National Register of Historic Places Nomination, N-4092. On file at BAHP.

¹¹⁹ Auburn Mills Historic District, National Register of Historic Places Nomination, N-5003. On file at BAHP.

¹²⁰ C. W. Pursell, Jr., *Two Mills on Red Clay Creek in the Nineteenth Century* (Wilmington: Historic Red Clay Valley, Inc., 1964), p. 24.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

a lathe for the ship building industry) were advertized in 1870, as were house brackets and scroll and circular saw work. The Williams House strongly relates to Greenbank Mill during this period when the mill was producing agricultural implements and architectural ornaments. The mill contributed to the growth of the local community, as evidenced by the construction of the Williams House.

Prior to 1873 the site of the Williams House was part of a larger farm parcel owned by James Cranston (see Figure 8, p. 34). Area residents state that five houses of similar size, plan and appearance, including the Williams House, stood at one time along the southern side of Newport Gap Pike. After demolition of the Williams House, only one of these five will remain. Mr. Paul E. Bower, former owner of the Williams House, states that he once met the daughter and granddaughter of A. J. Williams. These women informed him that Williams had constructed the five houses along Newport Gap Pike over a period of years. Deed transactions do not reveal property transfers between James Cranston, who owned all of the land along the south side of Newport Gap Pike prior to the 1870s, and Williams for more than the one-acre lot that Williams purchased in 1873 (see Figure 9, p. 35).¹²¹ Williams may have built the dwellings for Cranston in a speculative venture designed to profit by the increased need for housing necessitated by the expansion of local manufacturing establishments. Recent vandalism of the Williams House has revealed the date 1871 incised in the mortar of the northwest chimney pile. In the 1878 tax assessment, Williams was assessed \$1050 for one-and-one-half acres of land, a frame house, stable and livestock.¹²² Williams is listed in various directories as being a merchant, ladder manufacturer, plasterer, and mason. Tax assessments for the

¹²¹ New Castle County Deed Book: C-10-505/6; New Castle County Recorder of Deeds, Wilmington, Delaware.

¹²² New Castle County Tax Assessment: Christiana Hundred, 1877-1881; On file at Delaware State Archives, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

period 1881-1885 show that Williams added a mill of frame construction during this time.¹²³ A recent archaeological survey has revealed that a steam-powered wood lathe or saw mill operated on the property during the latter half of the nineteenth century. Williams may have manufactured ladders on his property in this "frame mill" or been employed at the Greenbank Mill producing peach ladders. Williams died early in the twentieth century, shortly before the property was sold in 1902 by his daughter, Mary E. Williams, to Benjamin A. Groves.¹²⁴ Although Williams was stationed at Fort du Pont north of Greenbank for a short time during the Civil War, tax and census documents reveal that he was not a resident of the area until after the introduction of the railroad into the Red Clay Creek valley.¹²⁵ An examination of transportation in the Red Clay Creek valley in the period 1830-1880 +/- reveals that the Williams House strongly relates to the historic theme Transportation & Communication as well.

Transportation networks had long been associated with the Red Clay Creek valley and were extremely important to the development of manufacturing communities in the valley. The Gap-to-Newport Turnpike, an early nineteenth century road, was a major artery in the movement of grains from the hinterlands of New Castle County and southeastern Pennsylvania to Newport, a terminal in the intra-coastal trading network.¹²⁶ In the eighteenth and

¹²³ New Castle County Tax Assessments: Christiana Hundred, 1881-1885; On file at Delaware State Archives, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware.

¹²⁴ New Castle County Deed Book: Z-18-538; New Castle County Recorder of Deeds, Wilmington, Delaware.

¹²⁵ J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Delaware, 1609-1888* (Philadelphia: L. J. Richards & Co., 1888) p. 370.

¹²⁶ Priscilla M. Thompson, *Springs/Red Clay Area, A Narrative Historical Overview, Newport to Gap Pike - Route 41, New Castle County, DE*, Delaware Department of Transportation Archeology Series no. 49 (Dover, Delaware, 1986), pp. 10-13.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

early nineteenth centuries, an intra-coastal trading network was the primary means of transporting goods between major port cities and rural areas. Grains and other produce were carried across rough roads to inland ports, where shallow-draft ships loaded agricultural produce and unloaded finished household and agricultural goods not locally available. The turnpike also gave the millers and manufacturers along Red Clay Creek easier access to raw materials. Establishments such as the Fell Spice Mill, the Delaware and the Marshallton Ironworks, the Garrett Snuff Mills, and the Auburn Cotton Mills relied on outside sources for materials to transform into finished goods. Wanting to take advantage of new markets for manufactured articles and agricultural goods in the western United States, local manufacturers were instrumental in the construction of the Wilmington and Western Railroad in 1872.¹²⁷

Construction of the railroad was actively supported by most of the manufacturers along Red Clay Creek. William Phillips and Edward Mendenhall, owners of the Greenbank Mill and the Marshallton Ironworks respectively, were on the first board of directors of the railroad. Alan Wood of the Delaware Ironworks and William Garrett of the Yorklyn snuff mills joined Phillips on the second board of directors. Wood and two other men later purchased \$500,000 of railroad bonds.¹²⁸ Wood also donated land for a station at Wooddale. C. J. Fell sold land for a station at Faulkland to the railroad company for one dollar. Although the floodplain of Mill Creek was considered as a possible route, the railroad directors decided upon Red Clay Creek since more manufacturing establishments were located there. Ultimately stations were erected at or near the larger mills along Red Clay

¹²⁷ Wilmington and Western Railroad, National Register of Historic Places Nomination, N-4091. On file at BAHP. See also Arthur G. Volkman, *The Story of the Wilmington and Western Railroad* (Wilmington: Historic Red Clay Valley, Inc., 1963).

¹²⁸ Volkman, p. 26.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Creek, including Greenbank.

At the time of the railroad's opening, a local newspaper listed A. J. Williams as the station agent at Greenbank.¹²⁹ The Williams House is directly across Newport Gap Pike from the Greenbank Station (see Plate 6, p. 42). Among the duties of the agent were selling tickets, checking baggage and freight, and opening and closing the station each day.¹³⁰ The station also contained a telegraph line. Since trains did not always keep to schedule, the location of the Williams home probably proved very beneficial to the railroad. Within the community, the station agent held a position of respect and esteem, since the railroad was an important economic link with Wilmington and points beyond. Williams' son John probably worked at the station as he is listed as "Clerk Rail house" in the 1880 census.¹³¹ The Wilmington and Western Railroad was forced into receivership by the national economic panic of 1873. Although the railroad was soon reorganized as the Delaware and Western Railroad, there is no evidence that Williams continued to work for the railroad. It was at this time that Williams turned to carpentry and housing construction.

During this period the Marshallton Ironworks, a short distance south of Greenbank along Red Clay Creek, experienced a great deal of expansion and greatly increased its workforce. The introduction of the railroad into the valley helped precipitate this expansion and resulted in the formation of a new community recognized by local directories. The houses erected by Williams were intended to take advantage of the housing requirements of this larger workforce. William Elliot, whose property abutted Williams to

¹²⁹ Volkman, p. 47.

¹³⁰ Volkman, p. 42.

¹³¹ United States Census, State of Delaware, Manuscript Returns: 1880; Microfilm on file at Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering, University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

the west, was probably employed at Marshallton in the manufacture of tin-plate and serves as an excellent example of the need for increased housing reflected in the expansion of rural industrial communities.

The historic themes Transportation and Manufacturing in the period ca. 1830-1880 are important aspects in the significance of the Andrew Jackson Williams House to the history of the Greenbank area. Although it was a dwelling, the influence of utilitarian requirements overshadows the importance of architectural styling and ornament in the Williams House. Closer inspection of evidence reveals that the Williams House documents the introduction of the Wilmington and Western Railroad into the Red Clay Creek valley and the growth of industrial communities. During the nineteenth century, agricultural milling establishments diversified into industrial production. This shift mirrored developments in the growing industrial economy of northern New Castle County. Manufacturing establishments required improved transportation networks to provide access to raw materials and markets for finished goods. The introduction of the railroad allowed for a degree of expansion that needed larger workforces and resulted in new housing. The Williams House is associated with these events in the Red Clay Creek valley and thus reflects the growth of manufacturing and the need for related dwellings.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)
has been requested
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☒ recorded by Historic American Buildings
Survey # DE-
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record #

☒ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Specify repository:

Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 3.3

UTM References

A 11 8 41 41 5 7 51 0 41 3 91 8 61 41 1
Zone Easting Northing
C

B
Zone Easting Northing
D

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a point at the intersection of Newport Gap Pike and the B&O Railroad right-of-way, thence along the right-of-way south-southwesterly 350 feet to a point, then northwesterly 280 feet to the property line of John Conner, then along the shared boundary with John Conner 310 feet northeasterly to its junction with the Newport Gap Pike, then southeast along said Pike to the point of beginning.

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This boundary describes the limits of the 1.5 acre nineteenth century occupation of Andrew Jackson Williams.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Stuart P. Dixon, Research Assistant
organization Center for Historic Architecture & Engineering date 29 February, 1988
street & number Graham Hall, University of Delaware telephone (302) 451-8097
city or town Newark state Delaware zip code 19716

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

BIBLIOGRAPHY:
ANDREW JACKSON WILLIAMS HOUSE

SECONDARY SOURCES

- Ames, David L., Bernard L. Herman and Rebecca J. Siders. *The Delaware Statewide Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan*. Newark, Delaware: Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering, 1987.
- Bachman, David C., and Jay F. Custer. *Phase I & II Archaeology Investigations of the Newport-Gap Pike (Route 41) Corridor, Wilmington and Western Railroad to Washington Avenue, New Castle County, Delaware*. Delaware Department of Transportation Archaeology series no. 65. Dover, Delaware: 1987.
- Herman, Bernard L., and Rebecca J. Siders. *Delaware Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan: Historic Contexts*. Newark, Delaware: Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering, 1986.
- Hoffecker, Carol E. *Wilmington, Delaware, Portrait of an Industrial City, 1830-1910*. Eleutherian Mills-Hagley Foundation: University Press of Virginia, 1974.
- McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1986.
- Minchinton, W. E. *The British Tinplate Industry, A History*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1957.
- Ostensen, A. George, and Joseph T. Wutka, Jr. *Delaware Route 41, Kirkwood Highway to Milltown Road, New Castle County, Delaware*. United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, and Delaware Department of Transportation: 1986.
- Pursell, Carroll W., Jr. *Ironworks on Red Clay Creek in the 19th Century; The Wooddale and Marshallton Mills of New Castle County, Delaware*. Wilmington, Delaware: Historic Red Clay Valley, Inc., 1962.
- Pursell, Carroll W., Jr. *Two Mills on Red Clay Creek in the Nineteenth Century*. Wilmington, Delaware: Historic Red Clay Valley, Inc., 1964.
- Pursell, Carroll W., Jr. "That Never Failing Stream: A History of Milling Along Red Clay Creek During the Nineteenth Century." M. A. Thesis, University of Delaware, 1958.
- Pursell, Carroll W., Jr. "The Delaware Iron Works: A Nineteenth Century Rolling Mill." *Delaware History* 8 (March 1959): 294-309.
- Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Delaware, 1609-1888*. Philadelphia: L. J. Richards & Co., 1888.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Thompson, Priscilla M. *Springs/Red Clay Area, A Narrative Historical Overview, Newport to Gap Pike - Route 41, New Castle County, DE.* Delaware Department of Transportation Archaeology Series no. 49. Dover, Delaware: 1986.

Volkman, Arthur G. *The Story of the Wilmington and Western Railroad.* Wilmington, Delaware: Historic Red Clay Valley, Inc., 1963.

PRIMARY DOCUMENTS

New Castle County Deed Books. New Castle County Recorder of Deeds, Wilmington, Delaware.

New Castle County Tax Assessments: Christiana and Mill Creek Hundreds. Delaware State Archives, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware.

Secretary of Treasury [Louis McLane]. *Documents Relative to the Manufactures in the United States.* 22nd Cong., 2nd sess., 1833. Exec. Doc. 223, v. 2.

United States Census, State of Delaware, Agricultural Schedules: 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880. Microfilm on file at Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering, University of Delaware.

United States Census, State of Delaware, Industry Schedules: 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880. Microfilm on file at Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering, University of Delaware.

United States Census, State of Delaware, Manuscript Returns: 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900. Microfilm on file at Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering, University of Delaware.

MAPS AND DIRECTORIES

Baist, William G. *Atlas of the State of Delaware.* Philadelphia: William G. Baist, 1894.

Beers, D. G. *Atlas of the State of Delaware.* Philadelphia: Pomeroy & Beers, 1868.

The Delaware State Directory for 1872-1873. Wilmington, Delaware: Jenkins & Atkinson, 1872.

The Delaware State Directory and Gazetteer for 1874-1875. Wilmington, Delaware: Commercial Printing Co., 1874.

The Delaware State and Peninsula Directory for 1882. Wilmington, Delaware: Ferris Bros., 1882.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

Delaware, Maryland and West Virginia State Gazetteer and Business Directory. Baltimore: R. L. Polk & Co., 1884.

The Delaware State Directory. Wilmington, Delaware: Ferris Bros., 1888.

Delaware State and Peninsula Directory 1891. Wilmington, Delaware: W. Costa & Co., 1890.

The Delaware State Directory for 1894-95. Wilmington, Delaware: M. A. Costa, 1894.

Hopkins, G. M. *Atlas of New Castle County, Delaware.* Philadelphia: G. M. Hopkins & Co., 1881.

Official Directory of The Bell Telephone Co. of Phila. Wilmington, Delaware: 1897.

Rea, Samuel, and Jacob Price. *Map of New Castle County, Delaware from Original Surveys.* Philadelphia: Smith and Wister, 1849.

NATIONAL REGISTER DOCUMENTS: (on file at Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Dover, Delaware)

Greenbank Historic District, N-191

Wooddale Bridge, N-296

Garret Snuff Mill, N-329

Ashland Bridge, N-331

Wilmington & Western Railroad Historic District, N-4091

Wooddale Historic District, N-4092

Garrett Snuff Mill Historic District, N-4098

Mt. Cuba Historic District, N-5001

Auburn Mills Historic District, N-5003

Graves Mill Historic District, N-5005

Fell Historic District, N-6760